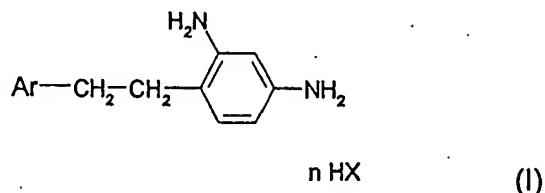


CLAIMS

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 5 JUL 2005

1. (original) m-Diaminobenzenes of formula (I)

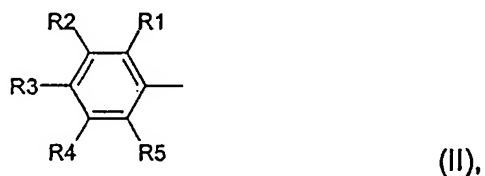


wherein

n is a numeral with $0 \leq n \leq 3$,

HX stands for an organic or inorganic acid and

Ar denotes a naphthyl group, a methylenedioxyphenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted or benzo-condensed five- or six-membered heteroaromatic group or a benzo-aromatic group of formula (II)



wherein the **R1** to **R5** groups independently of each other denote a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxyl group, nitrile group, carboxamido group, acetylamino group, a straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_{12} group, a straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy group, a straight-chain or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkylamino group, a straight-chain or branched di- (C_1-C_6) -alkylamino group, a phenyl group, a morpholino group, a pyrrolidino group, a piperidino group, a piperazino group, a C_2 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl group, a C_2 - C_4 -hydroxyalkoxy group, a benzyloxy group, a trifluoromethyl group or a methylsulfonyl group.

2. (original) m-Diaminobenzene as defined in claim 1, characterized in that in formula (I) the Ar group denotes a pyridinyl group, a furyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrol group, an indolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a pyrazolyl group.

3. (original) m-Diaminobenzene as defined in claim 1, characterized in that it is selected from the group consisting of 1,3-diamino-4-(2-phenylethyl)benzene dihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl]benzene dihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene dihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-{2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]ethyl}benzene trihydrochloride, 4-[2-(4-cyanophenyl)ethyl]-1,3-diaminobenzene dihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-pyridinyl)ethyl]benzene trihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(3-pyridinyl)ethyl]benzene trihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-biphenyl)ethyl]benzene dihydrochloride, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-{2-[4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)phenyl]ethyl}-benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(2-furyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(5-methyl-2-furyl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl]benzene, 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl]benzene and 1,3-diamino-4-[2-(2-pyridinyl)ethyl]benzene trihydrochloride.

4. (currently amended) Agent for oxidative dyeing of fibers, characterized in that in a suitable dye carrier composition it contains at least one m-diaminobenzene as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

5. (original) Agent as defined in claim 4, characterized in that it contains the m-diaminobenzene in an amount from 0.01 to 20 weight percent.

6. (currently amended) Agent as defined in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized in that additionally it contains a developer and/or an additional coupler and/or a direct dye.

7. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, characterized in that it is mixed with an oxidant before use.

8. (original) Agent as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the oxidant is hydrogen peroxide.

9. (currently amended) Agent as defined in ~~one of claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, characterized in that it is a hair colorant.

10. (currently amended) Use of m-diaminobenzenes as defined in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 for oxidative dyeing of fibers.